

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02701 272147Z
ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2302

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02701

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, WFC

SUBJECT: WILLIAMS TO BE APPOINTED WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. AT CLOSE OF MEETING ON DIFFERENT SUBJECT, SYG JUNE 27 TOLD AMB LEONARD THAT WILLIAMS' APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28. WALDHEIM EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD OFFERED BANGLADESH POSSIBILITY OF ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY AT SAME TIME AND WAS DELAYING ANNOUNCEMENT IN ORDER TO GIVE BANGLADESH TIME TO RESPOND TO THIS OFFER. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD BANGLADESH THAT THERE WOULD BE NO COMMITMENT CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY IF THEY DECLINED HIS OFFER OF JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. WALDHEIM TOLD LEONARD THAT IN RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATED COMPLAINTS FROM G-77, HE INTENDED TO POINT OUT THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT WILLIAMS WAS THE BEST CANDIDATE ON THE BASIS OF MERIT, THAT IN HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD THE MAJORITY FAVORED WILLIAMS, AND THAT IN CONSIDERING QUESTION OF GEOGRAPHIC

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DISTRIBUTION ALL FOUR AGENCIES IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE MUST BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER, NOT JUST WFC BY ITSELF.

3. LEONARD EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT SYG'S DECISION AND NOTED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO THIS APPOINTMENT AND OUR STRONG FEELING THAT WILLIAMS WAS BY FAR BEST-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.

4. SYG ALSO NOTED STRONG VIEW EXPRESSED BY G-77 THAT REGARDLESS OF WILLIAMS' APPOINTMENT, THIS POSITION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A US PRESERVE. LEONARD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS NO COMMITMENT THAT WILLIAMS' SUCCESSOR SHOULD BE AN AMERICAN. LEONARD

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